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COUNTRY GERMANY		REPORT NO. 59A-B-2792D	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT Russian Forced Labor, Penal and Correction Camps in UKHTA and VORKUTA.			
AREA REPORTED ON UKHTA, VORKUTA; USSR		FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW (USAF)	
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PREPARED BY (Officer) EDWARD E LUNDAG, Lt Col, USAF		SOURCE 226334	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)			
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)			
<p>I. PREAMBLE:</p> <p>SOURCE was a charwoman, 24 years of age, in police headquarters in KALININ-GRAD (5442N-2031E), when the Soviet Army occupied Eastern Prussia. She was arrested, accused of conspiracy and of activity as "Fascist Agent", and deported to Russia. Eventually, in Dec 47 she was sentenced to 20 years of forced labor and correction camp. She was interned in these camps until Dec 53.</p> <p>II. THE RUSSIAN FORCED LABOR CAMPS IN THE AREAS OF UKHTA (6334N-5342E) AND VORKUTA (6730N-6403E):</p> <p>The whole country N of UKHTA up to the WHITE SEA was penal district. All the towns and cities had forced labor camps for both sexes. The inmates of these camps, after serving their sentences, were settled in these places, and usually called their relatives and dependents here for homesteading. Other compulsory settlers were composed of subjects of Soviet satellite states and especially Russian subjects of German descent. All these compulsory settlers had forcedly pledged to remain in the area for 25 years or for ever. All persons in key conditions of nearly all installations, such as directors, managers, departmentheads and foremen were former convicts. The camp guards were Red Army personnel. Two different categories could be distinguished here. The first group, so-called "DIVISION" wore Army battle dress with blue shoulder boards. According to the statement of these soldiers they were transferred to here in punishment for minor offences and violation of regulations. They had to serve between 5 and 10 years sentences, were considerate and humane toward the prisoners. The second group was called the "GARNISON". It was composed of recruits of all parts of USSR. This was regular Army stationed in the area for military training and service. Besides their normal military duties they were commanded to guard the prisoners. The soldiers of this group were much more rough in treating the prisoners than those of the first group. A third group existed, composed of organized communist youth, members of the communist organization "KOMSOLOSSEN" (SOURCE's spelling). These youngsters, aged between 16 and 20 years, of both sexes were especially trained and taught that they were to deal with the lowest class of human beings, worst than dogs. These people were given authority wherever they were, wore uniforms of the Communist Party, and worked in groups in the various installations. The public announcement, that the Communist Youth voluntarily was developing the SIBERIA for the benefit of the USSR, and that this was a great patriotic achievement was not true. These youngsters were fanatic Communists and very rough, but they never were voluntaries. The announcement, that all the projects were planned by these youths was not real either. Remarkable was the fact, that all planning</p>			
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engineers and architects were either of German descent or Poles, Lithuanians and Latvians recruited of both groups, compulsory settlers, exconvicts or prisoners. The main labor contingent came from the camps, was comparatively cheap but not very efficient. Each installation had its own camp or camps with own detachment of guards. The guards changed at about 2 month interval, in order to prevent any friendship or relation between guards and prisoners. The administration of all camps was uniform. Headquarters were in VORKUTA with a ranking general as C.O. It had several departments. Headquarters had ranking officers, at least 2 members as permanent detachment at each camp, who were not assigned for direct camp administration. Their actual duty was unknown. The camp administration was individual and was composed of the C.O. ranking major or captain, operation officer, polit officer, supply officer, and the officer in charge of the labor activity. All these people were ranking officers and every one had an officer adjutant attached. All the other employees were civilians. The medical officer in overall charge was a captain from HQ. Each camp had its own medical doctor, who usually was a convict serving time. He or she was subordinated directly to HQ, and was not supposed to take orders from the direct administration. The rate of permitted sick leave concerning the prisoners was fixed by the medical officer and was in no case to be surpassed. A very efficient system of secret agency was spread over the entire area. Everybody could be such a secret agent. These agents were in all camps, installations and towns spying, shadowing and supervising everything and everybody. People were liable to be checked for I D cards and special permits at any time by day and night and at any place at their homes. These checks were usually executed by civilian officers of the MVD. Punishments were very hard and especially severe for the minor offenses. Each denouncement was followed and investigated very closely. Usually the denouncer's claim was acknowledged. The inmates of the camp did not dare to speak up, the more so because it would have been in vain. It often happened that blatnois were the denouncers, who could produce any number of false witnesses out of their fellows. Four grades of punishment existed and could be varied to great extent. The first and mildest grade was the mild arrest, so-called "ISOLATOR" (SOURCE's spelling). The delinquent worked with his gang as usually, but was locked up after work in cells with 4-5 others. No accommodations were allowed. The second grade was solitary arrest called "KARZER" (SOURCE's spelling). The delinquent had not to work, was given very little bread and water, and only once in 3 or 4 days interval one hot meal. His cell was bare, without cot or stool, blankets were not issued. For personal needs they were conducted at request to the latrine. It was impossible to clean or wash oneself. This punishment was inflicted usually for unallowed writing of letters or for buying unallowed food and amounted to 10 and 20 days. For heavier punishment the prisoner could be handcuffed, shackled and gagged. If a straight-jacket was ordered, the medical doctor had to be present during the performance the entire time of procedure. Beating could be part of the punishment too. The third degree was arrest for several month, called "BUR", (SOURCE's spelling). This separate arrest was added to the sentence. The prisoners had to take all their belongings with them and were locked in a separate section of the camp all the time. Nobody was allowed to communicate with them and were not allowed to speak. They were issued the lowest rate of rations, barely enough to keep them alive. These prisoners of the "Bur" could be called for internal camp work, and if necessary to outside work. In latter case they were handcuffed on their way. This punishment was especially used for repeatedly violation of regulation, for instance letter writing. Each inmate of the camps was entitled to write 2 letters during one year. The letters had to pass the camp censor. By bribery and other channels inmates managed to mail letters out of bonds. Since the mail of all compulsory settlers was liable to be censored also, it occasionally happened that the post office returned those illegal letters to the camp officials. All these 3 grades of punishment were in the jurisdiction of the camp C O, the polit officer acting as attorney. The fourth grade of punishment was prison and prolonging of the origi-

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nal sentence. This grade was in jurisdiction of HQ in VORKUTA. A special court was established and held frequently sessions either in VORKUTA or in the various camps in the district. If for instance a prisoner refused to work and his disobedience exceeded over 5 days, his total penalty was rigorously extended to 5 and up to 20 years additional conviction. In the early years up to 49 no classification of camps existed; the criminal and the political convicts were imprisoned in the same camps. Normally the sexes were separated, but mixed camps existed, where both sexes were interned. It often happened, even after 49, that male and female camps were adjacent, and only partitioned by sluggishly guarded fences. Communications between the sexes were illegal, but were common. If it was not possible to sneak through or around fences, or the guards were not easily bribed, underground tunnels were dug. Until 49 actual and pure bandit or blatnoi camps were not distinguished as such. This category of hardened criminals and organized criminals, who refused to work or did not acknowledge any other authority, except for their own, had their own barracks, kept by themselves, and terrorized all the other inmates of the camps as well as the administrative personnel. Usually their alien conduct went unpunished. In case their obstination grew to fierce, however, blatnois were transferred to other camps, where only hardened criminals were interned. These camps were under especially trained personnel, who had strict orders. The prisoners were forced to work, and were liable to get shot at the slightest offense. The power of the blatnois in the various camps was so great, and the officials of the camps were so corrupt, that a blatnoi seldom was transferred for correction. In late 49 the so called regime were established for the political prisoners, and, as a rule, all criminals were isolated in the hard labor camps, but even in 53 blatnois were found in almost all camps, conducting themselves same as before. SOURCE knew by hearsay that in many pure blatnoi camps inmates of both sexes were interned together. Both sexes worked together at the working places until 52. In 53, especially after the death of STALIN, the sexes were more strictly separated and worked by themselves. The required work norms were the same rate for both sexes. Until Mar/Apr 53 nobody of the prisoners drew any pay for the work done, and work hours were not normally fixed. It often happened that work was extended to 20 hours per day. After Apr 52 the working hours were restricted to 8 hours per day, at least for the political prisoners. They earned wages, had to pay for clothing, board and lodging. The often willful amount was deducted from the earnings. The balance was paid up to 200 Rubles in cash and the rest paid into personal account. The prisoners were allowed to buy in the camp stores at extremely high prices. The women could buy hosiery and lingerie of silk, but were not allowed to wear it, or to have it in personal possession. All these belongings were bagged, tagged, and stored in the supply. Luxuries and food however, could not be bought and were not available.

The political forced labor camps and the prisons housed prisoners of many nationalities. When SOURCE worked on excavations in VORKUTA town in Mar 51, her group worked close to dwellings under constr. Male prisoners, inmates of MVD prison in VORKUTA, worked here. Communication between the groups were not allowed. Some girls comprehended English and French languages and found out, that some of the male prisoners were either Americans or Englishmen, and French. SOURCE could not remember any names, but knew that some of the English spoken prisoners were airmen, who had forcedly left their aircraft by parachutes. They were accused to be foreign agents and sentenced to hard labor and prison.

Edward E Lundak
Capt USAF
EDWARD E LUNDACK
Lt Col, USAF
Commander
7059 AISC

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